This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

CHILDREN OF THE OLDEN TIME

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"A TRIP TO OSTEND"

&c. &c. &c.

600023679X

CHILDREN OF CHARLES THE FIRST.

Children of the Olden Time.

By MRS. HENRY MACKARNESS,

AUTHOR OF

"A TRAP TO CATCH A SUNBEAM,"

ETC., ETC.

WITH PREFACE BY J. R. PLANCHÉ.

WITH TWENTY-SEVEN ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON:

GRIFFITH AND FARRAN,

SUCCESSORS TO NEWBERY AND HARRIS,

CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.

MDCCCLXXIV.

All rights reserved.

223. j. 91.

Watson and Hazell, Printers, London and Aylesbury.

TO

THE CHILDREN OF ENGLAND

THIS LITTLE BOOK

IS DEDICATED

BY ONE OF THEIR MOST ARDENT ADMIRERS.

PREFACE.

A PORTION of the subject of these pages appeared in the "Leisure Hour," and their reception by the public was sufficiently encouraging to induce my daughter to enlarge her plan, and with additional illustrations render her little work more complete and worthy of the approbation of children of every growth in this age of education. She trusts that it will be found sufficiently amusing to prevent its study being compulsory, and that it contains nothing calculated to offend the susceptibilities of readers of any denomination. The idea originally occurred to the writer

from circumstances so often the origin of more important undertakings. She wanted some information herself, and could not find it. Strutt's "Sports and Pastimes," though published some years ago by the author of the "Every Day Book," related solely to games; and Wright's "Domestic Manners and Sentiments during the Middle Ages" contains very little information respecting the amusements, culture, and mode of life, or changes of dress of *children;* independently of which, neither of these interesting and valuable works is adapted for perusal by the juvenile portion of the public. Believing, then, that not only intelligent little boys and girls, but even "parents and guardians," might be entertained as well as instructed by a compilation of all the scattered facts respecting the children of the olden time, which could be gathered

from chronicles and illustrated by tracings from illuminations, paintings, and early prints, in strict chronological order, and that they would prove acceptable to those of the present day, she dedicated many of her own "leisure hours" to their collection, and now in a more comprehensive and attractive form, presents them to the rising generation.

J. R. PLANCHÉ.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

PAGE

Anglo-Saxons—Their treatment at birth—Protection against Evil Spirits—Curious Names—Dress—Education—Amusements—Domestic Occupation—History of Hereward 1

CHAPTER II.

The Normans—Employment of Girls and Boys—First mention of Toys—Furniture—Education—Games—Anecdote of a Magpie 16

CHAPTER III.

Love of Gardening—Story of a Lady—Cherry Feasts—Early Meals—Direction for Behaviour at them—Ladies and Gentlemen taught to be Servants—Printing—Horn Book—The Severity of Parents—Nursery Rhymes—Schools—Amusements—A Curious Toy—Writing—Foundation Schools: St. Paul's, Christ Church, Blue-Coat School . . 29

CHAPTER IV.

PAGE

Female Dresses—The Invention of Pins—Children's Breakfasts — Queen Elizabeth—Christening Presents—The early age at which Children began life 52

CHAPTER V.

Stockings first worn—Anecdote of Prince Henry—Mode of Travelling—First Hackney Coach—Love of Pets—Anecdote of Cromwell—Dramatic Amusements—Christmas Sports 64

CHAPTER VI.

Eton Montem — Fairs—Costumes — Wearing Rings—Account of Daniel Huet — Holidays restored—Literature—Family Tea-kettle and Coffee-pot—Chap-books 74

CHAPTER VII.

Dutch Toys — Dolls — Dresses of Children — Public Amusements—Master D'Arblay's visit to the Queen of George III.—Dolls' Houses—Modern Toys . 95

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
Children of Charles the First . . (*Frontispiece*)	
Mother swaddling child	3
Child in cradle being swathed	4
Boy bound with stockings	11
Boy with short cloak	11
Saxon bed	19
Children of Edward III.	21
Children of the time of Richard II.	22
Head-dress of mother and child	23
Ladies making garlands	30
Ancient horn-book	36
Chastisement threatened	40
Tobit's wife cooking	41
Children, time of Henry VII.	47
Jousting toy	48
Playing at horses	49
Cradle, time of Elizabeth	54

PAGE

Children of the Duke of Buckingham 65
Hackney coach 65
Lady on pillion 66
The first stage 71
From the "Looking-Glass" 90
Family tea-kettle and coffee-pot 92
Degrees of comparison 96
From Hogarth 99
From Gillray 99
Children (from a Fashion Book of 1827) . . . 105

CHILDREN OF THE OLDEN TIME.

CHAPTER I.

Anglo-Saxons—Their treatment at birth—Protection against Evil Spirits—Curious Names—Dress—Education—Amusements—Domestic Occupation—History of Hereward.

"TELL me a story, a true story, about real live children," said a little girl one day. "I am tired of reading about Susy, and Florence, and Leila, and a heap of good little girls and boys that never really did live, and are so very good or so very naughty." Perhaps there are many other little girls who agree with her, at any rate I hope so, and then they will take up this book with some interest, and, peeping into its pages, go back into the

far-off "long ago," which has charms for us all, young and old, and seeing the pictures of the little children in their quaint dresses, who once played and talked like themselves, enjoy this account I am going to give them of what they did, how they lived, ate, and amused themselves, and be interested by the stories I shall tell them of those "real live children" who have been thought worthy to be remembered and written about all these long years after, whose heroic actions and noble deeds have given them a place in history, and from whose lives our little ones may be reminded they "may make their own sublime."

I shall begin when, as it were, England was itself a child; when the people were called Anglo-Saxons; and the little babies wrapped in swaddling clothes looked like the chrysalis of a silk-worm, and were only allowed to live if they did not cry!

Think of that! If a poor tiny baby, a few hours old, objected to be placed on a slanting roof or the bough of a tree, and uttered

its wailing cry of terror, they ordered it to be killed! Where was the use, they argued, of rearing a poor little weakly frightened child to be a "nithing" (in their language, "nothing" or useless), and a disgrace to a nation of brave men? But if the baby

Mother swaddling Child.

laughed and crowed, it was brought home joyfully and saved. Oh! how the poor mother must have trembled while her little darling was thus, as it were, tried for its life, lying on a sloping roof, or swinging amongst the boughs of some large tree! Perhaps our nursery

rhyme, sung to our more tenderly nurtured little ones,

"Hush-a-bye baby on the tree top,"

may have come from this strange Anglo-Saxon custom, or how should any one have thought of hushing a baby in so perilous a position?

Child in cradle being swathed.

I should suppose all little babies born on a Sunday were saved, because the Anglo-Saxons had a strong superstition about the days on which the little strangers arrived, and con-

sidered Sunday the luckiest of all days, particularly if it fell on a new moon. This superstition remains still among us in the north and south of our "Island Home," and the following lines are yet sung and believed in :—

"Monday's bairn is fair of face,
Tuesday's bairn is full of grace,
Wednesday's bairn is the child of woe,
Thursday's bairn has far to go;
Friday's bairn is loving and giving,
Saturday's bairn must work for its living,
But the bairn that is born on a Sabbath day,
Is bonny and healthy and wise and gay."

And this strange mode of testing the future power and strength of the little Anglo-Saxon babies was not all that they had to undergo in this early stage of their existence. The child had to be protected from fairies and evil spirits; so as soon as it was born the nurse had to dig a long tunnel in the ground, and through it to drag the child, carefully closing the hole with stones, so that no evil spirits could follow. Then she had to take the infant to a place where two

roads met, there to place it on the ground and drag it up and down, while prayers were said to the goddesses they worshipped, whom the people as sincerely thought protected them, as we believe our Heavenly Father protects us. I think our mothers would not like to see their pretty tiny babies subjected to such treatment, and our nurses would, I think, look very much astonished if they found this was part of their duty. But in one respect the Anglo-Saxons set us an excellent example: the nurse was always treated as a person of considerable importance, one to be loved and honoured, and treated with every possible kindness. The parents felt justly that one who had so much trouble and anxiety with the little tender things committed to her care could not be too well rewarded or too kindly treated; and I dare say those little boys and girls would have been severely punished if they had been saucy or unkind to their nurses.

After some time, when good Christian men came to show them—these Anglo-Saxons—

their errors, the little ones, instead of being dragged through the ground and put into a hole to preserve them from evil spirits, had a better way of being guarded from evil, they were baptized, and made little Christian children. And names were then given them of some virtue, which it was hoped they would really possess, such as Ethelbert, the "noble and bright;" Edmund, "the happy protector;" Edith, "the happy gift;" Adelaide, "the noble wife;" Ellen, "the excellent," and so forth. They did not then take their fathers' names as now, but were distinguished by some peculiarity or personal appearance; as "the "Fair," "the Dark," and amongst the Danish people we select the funny names of "Flat Nose," "Squint Eye," "Ugly," "Long Nose," "Short Beard," "Hawk Nose," "Spoon Nose," and "Touch Eye." Would any of you little ones who are, I hope, reading this, like to find a name for your dolls amongst such a selection? "Flat Nose" would not be an inappropriate one, I fancy, after dolly

has been some time an inmate of the nursery.

The Indians still retain this custom, as you have doubtless found out if you have commenced reading those North American Indian stories, which possess such enchantment for some young folks. You will have made acquaintance with "Leather Stockings," "Deer Slayer," "Hawk Eye," "Path Finder," "Arrow Head," and "Eagle Plume," more poetical than the Danish cognomen certainly, but on the same principle, using the distinguishing mark of each person, the peculiarity by which they were known. After this their occupation gave them their names, so that the great family of the Smiths came from the blacksmith, the whitesmith, the goldsmith, and other artificers.

Few children in the Anglo-Saxon days could read or write; their learning consisted chiefly in psalm-singing and reciting poetry. We read that they had but one mode of teaching: "they told a child to learn; and if he

did not, they beat him," and even young ladies of two-and-twenty were flogged! But there was one safety for the children; the flogging could only be administered in the church, where the school was held, and once out of school the little culprit was safe. This method of teaching was so general that their school-days were spoken of as "when they were under the rod."

Whatever they wished them to remember they first told them and explained to them, and then severely flogged them, that they might never forget it.

I should think these poor little folks never looked back to the days when "they were under the rod" as our happy boys recall the days of Eton and Harrow. But even in those hard early times the boys had rough sports and noisy games which, when the lesson, so severely taught, was over, they could indulge in, with the mirth and activity of their age; and the restlessness and cheerfulness, the love of play, the violent grief, soon forgotten,

and the strange little whims and fancies, without the power of reasoning upon them, was child life then, as it is now.

The ladies of that time excelled in needlework, and whilst the boys were running, wrestling, and boxing, the little girls were probably working hard, in imitation of "mamma," as they sat in the large hall, listening to the gleeman or minstrel, who was acquainted with all the traditions of the family, and with fables and legends, which he sang to his harp or lute; or they played practical jokes and tricks, or propounded riddles to one another, children being encouraged to ask and answer them, as it was supposed to brighten their intellects. Can you picture them to yourselves, seated in a circle round the hearth—the fire being made in the middle of the hall, in a hollow basin guarded with stone—the mother with her maidservants spinning the household linen, the tired master just returned from his long day's sport, and the happy children laughing merrily at some younger child's

attempt at a riddle, while the loud voices of the boys out in the courtyard, playing at some rough sport, came through the small windows, so small that they were called in the Saxon tongue "eye-holes." The dress of the women was very simple. The tunic over the

Boy bound with stockings.

Boy with short cloak.

long white gown, with very wide sleeves, a very wide cloak over the upper part of the body, and a covering or hood over the head, falling over the shoulders,—much such a costume as that of the good Sisters of Mercy

who are to be seen doing their works of love among the poor now. The boys wore a cloth tunic fitting round the throat and reaching to the knees, girdled by bands of folded cloth, the short cloak fastened by a brooch on the right shoulder; and the little girls somewhat longer dresses, their hair falling in natural luxuriance over the shoulders, bound by a fillet, which was never altered until the day of their marriage, when it was gathered up and bound round their heads. The girls of that time were spoken of as being "in their hair," as we speak of ours as being "in their teens."

Rude and barbarous as these early people were, great names are numbered amongst them. One whom all children know and love to hear of, the great Alfred, whose perseverance in learning is told us, and how it was first excited by a book of Saxon poetry, beautifully written and ornamented, and which his mother promised him or his brother, whichever could first learn to read it. Alfred

was successful, and from that time his greatest delight was study; but he had great difficulties to encounter, which appear to us almost insurmountable. One, the scarcity of books; the other, the few people who could teach; but as perseverance in a good cause is always rewarded, he succeeded, notwithstanding these obstacles, in becoming the most learned man of his time.

Another name famous amongst them was that of Hereward, who, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, was distinguished for his extraordinary valour and courage. He was the son of Leofric Lent, of Bourne in Lincolnshire, and his wife Ediva. From his earliest years he showed a warlike and valorous disposition. Tall and handsome in person, and with dauntless courage, he was lord over all his playmates; but his warlike disposition made his love of triumph and victory so great that he often resorted to his sword when he could not gain the mastery by muscular strength. This becoming at last more frequent than agreeable,

and the youths of the neighbourhood complaining of this conduct, his father grew angry, and stated his misdemeanours to the King, who ordered him into banishment. Through England, Ireland, and to Flanders he went, earning a glorious reputation for valour and prowess everywhere.

One of these acts of bravery was the slaughter of a ferocious bear, and the rescuing of a little girl from its grasp. You can imagine what a hero he appeared to the mother and friends of the poor child. In Flanders a beautiful young lady fell in love with him, whom he married; and his noble deeds reaching the ears of his friends and parents, changed their dislike to love and estimation, and, according to the history of him, written by a man of his own time, "he returned with his wife to his native soil. After great battles and a thousand dangers, frequently dared and bravely terminated, as well against the King of England, as the earls, barons, prefects, and presidents, which are yet sung in our streets, he at

length, with the King's pardon, obtained his paternal inheritance, and ended his days in peace."

With this account of one of the heroes of Anglo-Saxon times, of a "real live child," who lived to be a great man, I shall conclude this chapter, and begin my next with the history of the people over whom reigned the great Duke of Normandy as William the First of England.

CHAPTER II.

The Normans—Employment of Girls and Boys—First mention of Toys—Furniture—Education—Games—Anecdote of a Magpie.

IN this time there arose a spirit of chivalry, which with the increase of learning and civilization improved and softened the rough and barbarous manners; and as a proof of the good feeling which prevailed at that early time I will give you an extract from a romance, which is a counsel from a mother to a son.

"My son, as you are going to be a courtier, I require you for God's love have nothing to do with a treacherous flatterer; make the acquaintance of wise men; attend regularly to the service of Holy Church, and show honour and love to the clergy. Give your goods willingly

to feed the poor, be courteous, and spend freely, and you will be the more loved and cherished." Such advice might serve us as well now.

About this time we begin to hear more about the favourite occupations of the ladies, one of which is weaving; and in an old drawing of ladies following this employment two of them are holding scissors the exact shape of those still used by our tailors; somewhat clumsy ones for delicate fingers; and if there were no smaller ones manufactured, I should think the children could not amuse themselves with cutting out pictures as our little ones so love doing now. The girls were passionately fond of dancing, and the boys occupied themselves, as before, in the rough games of wrestling, bull-baiting, bear-baiting, boxing, and running; and we now begin to find mention of toys which have a familiar sound to us; balls, whip-tops, nine-pins, and dolls. The latter were used by the Roman children, made of wood, wax, plaster, ivory, and

gold, but very unlike the waxen images of babyhood which please you now. They were more like little figures, and have been found frequently in coffins, the Romans having a practice of burying the playthings of the children with them, which practice was afterwards followed by the Christians. It must be a touching sight to see the little toys lying there, when the tiny hands that had played with them have long ago mouldered into dust, and the little toy is all that is left to tell of the bright laughing little being that had once treasured it.

In the houses of the gentry now there is more account of furniture than under the Saxons, although I cannot say the beds look very comfortable, to judge from this picture. The poor gentleman looks as though lying down would be a difficult task, or turning round without some danger of falling out; perhaps they did not "sleep like tops" in those days, if sleeping like a top means, as one might suppose it does, turning round

and round; however, the tester bed was soon after introduced, and looked more comfortable, I should think, than this one, which has the appearance of a garden iron seat. At the foot of these beds there was a bench, and

Saxon Bed.

at the head a chair. The sheets were made of rich silk or fine linen, and the coverlet of the hair of the badger, beaver, cat, or sable.

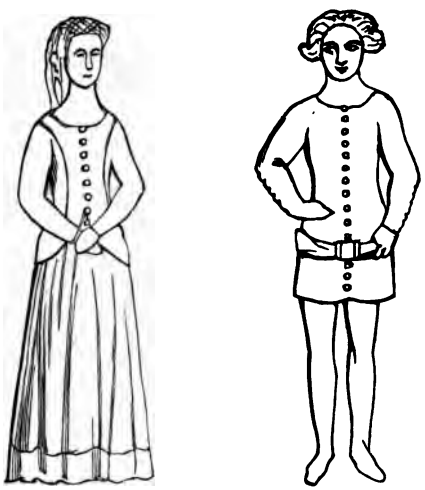
At one end of the room was a perch or pole for the falcons, the birds used in the sports of hawking; and in another place a similar one for

articles of dress, which said dress differed but little from the Saxon time, until a later period. The "swaddling" of the babies continued until the reign of Edward I.; and you know we are told that our blessed Saviour was wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Of the education of Norman children we know but little, but reading and writing seem to have been the chief instruction until the fourteenth century. The stories told of the feudal barons of this time show however that they needed instruction in gentleness and consideration, or in the sweet law of "doing unto others as we would have them do to us," for one Roger de Montgomery, it is said, tore the eyes out of his children's heads for hiding their eyes in sport under his cloak, beat and imprisoned his wife, and butchered men in the most frightful manner; and that women of rank also equalled these men in their deeds of cruelty.

But still in these barbarous days there were not wanting instances of bravery and unselfish devotion, and amongst these we may cite the

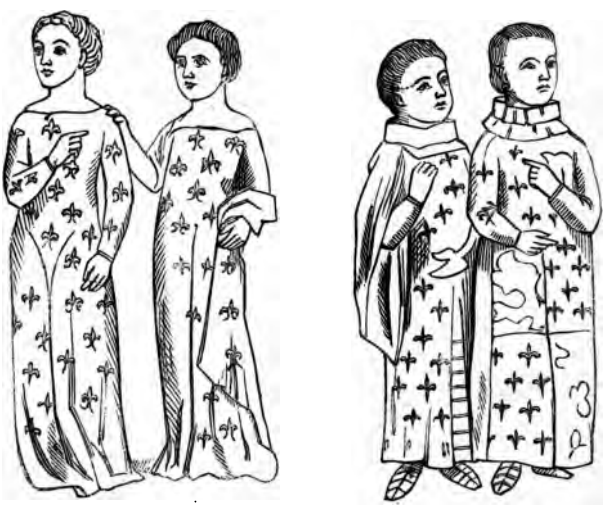
young Prince Henry, who lost his life to save his young sister Maud, in that fatal wreck of the "White Ship," which destroyed a nation's hope and broke a king's heart; for so had his



Children of Edward III.

father loved him, that from that time forth, it is said, he was never again known to smile. This young prince left a widow, the same age as himself, who died in a nunnery ten years after. Imagine a widow scarcely sixteen!

The dresses were now gradually altering in fashion since I described to you the Saxon household, changing, as we see them now continually doing; but the children



Children of the time of Richard II.

had no special fashions of their own as now; they were principally dressed like their fathers and mothers, looking like little miniature men and women, as you see by these prints of the

children of Edward III. and some children of the time of Richard II. I think they must have all looked like Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thumb. Imagine one of our little girls with a large chignon at the top of her head, or our little

Head-dress of mother and child.

boys in tall hats and long coats and trousers; but they did not, I fancy, in the times of Edward IV. and Richard III., when such extravagant things were worn, place on the heads of their poor little girls such an erection as that worn by the elder ladies—for in this

picture of a mother and child, the daughter, you see, has a little cap on her head.

We are told that the beautiful and unfortunate Marie Antoinette was the first who broke through the absurd fashion of dressing tiny boys like their fathers, and she was as much reviled for dressing the poor little Dauphin in a blue jacket and trousers as though she had committed some great moral offence.

With such a pyramid as their mothers' I do not know how the little feet would have kept their balance, and as I look at the pictures of the little children of olden time I wonder how they could have ever, encumbered as they were with long skirts, have played at "frog in the middle," "blind man's buff," and hoop trundling, which we read that they did indulge in. Perhaps they took off their long frocks or tucked them up round them, much in the way our Blue-coat boys do now when they indulge in foot-ball, cricket, or other amusements of the kind. A game

called "qui tery" (of late years termed "hot cockles") was a very favourite diversion. One is blinded, and kneels down in the centre of a circle, with one hand behind her, which the rest of the players strike in turn, the blind one having to guess the name of the striker. Another game, which I think might serve to amuse you now, consisted of a set of good and bad characters written in verse, on a roll, having strings to each, which the players drew in turn. The game was called "rageman" or "ragman;" and it possesses some historical interest; for when the Scotch nobles in the reign of Edward I. acknowledged their dependence on the English crown, the deed, with all their seals attached to it, was rolled up in this manner, and no doubt, in derision, was called Ragman's Roll. Afterwards it became customary to call any roll with many signatures after that name. I am indebted for this information, and many other interesting things, to a most amusing book, which, when you little folks have become big

folks, will, I am sure, afford you as much amusement as it has me.*

"Cross and pile," now called "head and tail;" "crambo," a game where one gave a word to which another found a rhyme; chess, dice, tables (now known as backgammon),—all formed the recreations of those days of "long ago."

In the reign of Henry VII. card-playing seemed a favourite court amusement. Margaret, his daughter, is spoken of as playing at cards with her intended husband, James IV. of Scotland. The old story that cards were invented for the amusement of the poor mad King of France (Charles VI.) is disputed. The mistake has probably arisen from the fact that in the treasury register belonging to that monarch, fifty-six sols were paid to one Jacquemin Gringonneur, painter, "for three packs of cards, gilded and painted with divers colours." It is the opinion of many

* "History of Domestic Manners and Sentiments." By T. Wright.

learned writers that cards were used in Eastern lands long before they were known in Europe, called "tarot cards," but they were very unlike our present playing-cards. The gipsies used them for telling fortunes, as they do now; and being all pictures, they would amuse children, and probably had been long in use in France before they were made brighter and gayer to please the poor king.

The ladies of those days took great delight in animals, dogs, birds, and monkeys especially, which no doubt found occupation for the children in feeding and tending them; and in a book of counsels, written by a father to his daughter, there is a funny anecdote about a magpie which was the most favoured pet of the bird tribe, the moral contained in it being a warning against greediness; the evil and revengeful spirit it left without any comment, though that appears to me quite as deserving of reproof.

The tale runs thus: "There was a lady who kept in a cage a pie, who talked of every-

thing which it saw and heard. Now it happened that the lord of the castle had preserved a large eel in his pond, which he was saving in order to regale some of his lordly friends when they came to see him. But the lady unhappily took a fancy to the eel, and she and her maid ate it all. When the lord returned, the pie began to say, 'My lord, my lady has eaten the eel.' And he went to the pond at once, and missing the fish, he went into the house and asked his wife what had become of it. She thought to excuse herself, but he said he knew all about it, the pie had told him. The result was great quarrelling and trouble; but when the lord was gone away, the lady and her female attendant went to the pie, and plucked all the feathers from his head, saying, 'You told about the eel.' And so the poor pie was quite bald. But from that time forward, when it saw people who were bald, it called out, 'Ah! *you* told about the eel.'"

There is a modern story very similar about a parrot and a baker.

CHAPTER III.

Love of Gardening—Story of a Lady—Cherry Feasts—Early Meals—Direction for Behaviour at them—Ladies and Gentlemen taught to be Servants—Printing—Horn Book—The Severity of Persecution—Nursery Rhymes—Schools—Amusements—A Curious Toy—Writing—Foundation Schools: St. Paul's, Christ Church, Blue-Coat School.

THE houses at this time were so small and inconvenient, and so dark, that they were glad to pass as much time as possible out of doors, and we hear of them dining out, dancing, singing, and playing at chess in the garden, and we may fancy the young children playing there beside their elder sisters, who were amusing themselves by weaving chaplets and garlands, some of them looking, as in this picture, like the "regrets" which it is the

pretty custom abroad, and in England too now, frequently to place on the last resting-place of our friends; or they might be tending the flowers, for they were great gardeners, and the rearing of plants, both for use and ornament,

Ladies making garlands.

was one engrossing occupation. The girls were all taught doctoring and nursing the sick, and medical herbs therefore grew in all the gardens, which they learnt not only to cultivate but use for the benefit of the sick and wounded.

Young men and maidens wore wreaths of flowers on their heads, and garlands were frequently given as rewards for success in games. Roses, lilies, and violets are all spoken of, and many of our common garden flowers were known even to the Anglo-Saxons. In the book I have before spoken of as so amusing, the author quotes a funny old Latin story of this period to prove the practice of taking meals in the garden.

It tells of a lady of a very uncertain temper having to entertain some of her husband's friends at dinner, he having ordered the table to be laid in the garden; for they did not then, as now, dine late in the evening, but at the, to us, strange hour of *nine* or *ten* in the morning. The gentleman thought it would be more agreeable to his guests to spread the table in the pretty shaded garden by which the river ran, with its cool and pleasant murmur, instead of the hot dark room. Now the poor lady was more than usually out of temper, so much so that the husband was

compelled to ask her not to look so very cross, but smile at his friends, and draw nearer the table; but, with her sad contrary spirit, she only went further back; he spoke more angrily, which still further enraging her, she gave her seat another sharp push, forgetting the river was behind her, and fell into the water, and was drowned. The husband got into a boat to search for the body; but, to the astonishment of the guests, they saw him rowing up the stream instead of down, and called to him to advise his trying the other way. "Oh!" said he, "you did not know my wife; she did everything in contradiction, therefore no doubt her body is floating against the stream, not with it." The memory of this funny story may perhaps laugh away any "contrary" feelings which may sometimes affect my little readers, and this tragic ending to the poor lady of "contrary" inclinations be a warning against such unpleasant ebullitions of temper.

The cherry seems to have been one of the

most favoured of fruits, and it was an old custom to have cherry fairs or feasts in the cherry orchards, when the fruit was ripe. We can picture to ourselves troops of young children, in the dresses which seem so strange to us now, going with their mothers to one of these feasts—the girls with their long hair down their back, bound by fillets of gold or silk, or, still prettier, the chaplets of flowers they loved to make, spending the day in the orchard perhaps, and coming home to supper at *five*, for they rose then before six, *dined*, as I have said, at *nine* or *ten*, and went to bed immediately after their supper. I suppose the children took their meals with their parents in the hall—there were no night and day nurseries, or rooms especially set apart for them; and I fear the example of their elders could not have been very beneficial, when it was necessary to give such directions to grown-up ladies as the following:—

"In eating you must avoid much laughing or talking. If you eat with another, (namely,

in the same plate,) turn the nicest piece to him, and do not go picking the finest and largest for yourself, which is not courteous; moreover, no one should eat greedily a piece that is too large or too hot, for fear of being burnt or choked. Each time you drink wipe your mouth, that no grease may go into the wine, which is very unpleasant to the person who drinks after you. But when you wipe your mouth for drinking, do not wipe your eyes or nose with the tablecloth, and avoid spitting from your mouth or greasing your hands too much." They spoke plainly in those days!

Young gentlemen and young ladies were sent to take service in the homes of persons of higher rank or wealth, where manners and accomplishments of gentlemen could be better learnt than at home. The young men waited at table, and performed many offices we should now call menial; but they shared in the amusements, and were instructed in the manly exercises, which was a sort of apprenticeship to knighthood. Girls in the same manner

went to ladies of rank, and assisted in spinning, weaving, millinery, embroidery, and dressmaking; and I can imagine that the little children must have anxiously wondered to whom they should be sent when they were old enough, and have been very happy with young girls of their own age, thus cheerfully and usefully employed. To be a good servant was a gentlemanly and ladylike accomplishment, and payment was made in clothing or gifts rather than money.

At the period we have now arrived at a feeling became general of the great necessity for education, and this showed itself in the founding of those Universities of which English people are so justly proud. Reading and writing became now much more general, among the ladies more particularly. Tales, ballads, and songs had up to this period been told or sung; but now the great and wondrous art of printing, to which we are all so indebted, was discovered, and books began to multiply. In illuminations of the fifteenth century we

find book-tables and book-cases forming part of the furniture. Happy children of this age

abcdefghiklmnopqrstuvwxyz3&c.
ba e i o u ✠ a e i o u
ab eb ib ob vb ba be bi bo bu
ac ec ic oc uc ca ce ci co cu
ad ed id od ud da de di do du
In the name of the Father and of the
Sonne and of the holy Ghost. Amen.
Our Father which art in heaven
hallowed be thy Name. Thy
kingdome come. Thy will be
done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily breed
And forgive us our trespasses as
We forgive them that trespasse us
And let us not be led into temp-
tation: but deliver us from evill:
Amen. i. ii. iii. iiii. v. di. vi. vii. x.

Ancient horn-book.

can hardly, I suppose, imagine a time when there were no books, no delightful fairy tales,

no "Boy's Own Book," no "Girl's Own Book," none of those gorgeous "Toy books" which, with their well-executed coloured pictures, gladden the little bright eyes now; nothing but the horn-book, a kind of tablet from which they learnt their alphabet, without the pleasant and attractive modes of impressing it on their minds as those used now-a-days.

The one of which I give the picture was printed in the reign of Elizabeth. It was mounted on wood, and protected by *horn*, which was then a substitute for glass. The children carried them hanging to their girdles, as we frequently see our country children carrying their slates. "The battledore," or "first book" for children, was printed on cardboard, and contained the alphabet and simple combinations of letters, and was a substitute for the horn-book.

The phrase, to know A B from a battledore, which I have frequently heard corrupted into a barn-door, refers to this book.* This was

* "Ancient Poetry," edited by Halliwell.

certainly a duller mode of teaching than the bright coloured alphabets, wherein the children are told that A was an archer and shot at a frog, or A was an apple-pie which B bit and C cut, and which did not appear till long after this date.

Looking back to this "long ago," it is strange to notice how very little was done for children, and how unimportant they appear to have been thought. They were treated with the greatest severity by their parents and teachers, and there are instances of this in the correspondence of the family of a judge in 1154. In one letter it is stated that a poor young lady "since Easter had been beaten once in a week or twice, and sometimes twice in a day, and her head broken in two or three places." And this harshness and severity continued down to a late period; for Lady Jane Grey complains of "the nibs and bobs and pinches" administered by her parents, and that she could never do anything to please them. The children appear to me to have

worked more than played; but brighter times must have dawned for them when books began to be more general, and they could read for themselves, again and again, the legends and romances which their nurses had told them and the minstrels had sung them, as children love to do now.

Printing, some say, was discovered by one of those simple things which seem so trifling, and yet on which often the greatest events turn. It seems that one Laurentius, a rich citizen of Haarlem, strolling in a wood near the city, amused himself by cutting letters on the bough of a beech tree, and the thought struck him to take the impression off in ink to amuse his grandchildren; from this simple fact came all the countless books which from that age until now have been such a source of pleasure and instruction to old and young.

William Caxton, a citizen and mercer of London, with singular industry and perseverance set himself to learn the new art, with the object of introducing it into England. In

1471 he succeeded in printing a book, by the desire of the Duchess of Burgundy, sister to Edward IV., called the "Recule of the History of Troy." He then came to England, and set up a printing-press in the abbot's lodgings at

Chastisement threatened.

Westminster, and there printed a book on the "Game of Chess." He lived till 1491, and printed nearly fifty volumes.

In one, called the "Mirror of the World," there is a most remarkable drawing, which appears to represent three or four unhappy

people about to be whipped; for a very severe-looking person in a chair has an instrument in his hand very much like a birch rod, and with the other one he appears to be beckoning to the culprits, who have fallen on their knees at some distance. It is singular to contrast

Tobit's wife cooking.

this rude outline with the finished productions of the present day.

I dare say some of the earliest books printed were cookery books, for MS. books on cooking were common in 1470. There is an illustration of one in an old MS. in the British Museum

of the life of Tobit: a woman is seated at the fire cooking, and evidently consulting the receipt for her savoury dish in the book on her knee.

Perhaps you will be astonished to hear that the nursery rhymes that mamma and nurse perhaps sang you when you were babies were sung to the babies of long ago too; for Mr. Halliwell, who has taken much pains to collect and publish them, tells us that most of them have historical and political interest. One, I dare say you all know, he considers refers to the rebellious times of Richard II.

"My father he died, I cannot tell how,
But he left me six horses to draw out my plough,
With a wonny lo! wonny lo! Jack Straw blazey boys,
Wommy lo! wommy lo! wob, wob, wob."

The verses are more numerous in the version which we have now, relating how the man kept exchanging his animals for others, until he got a mouse which carried fire in his tail, and burnt down the house. The mouse is evidently the

"Jack Straw blazey boys," and the "house" probably John of Gaunt's palace, which the nobles burnt. Another nursery rhyme, the same gentleman states, refers to Joanna of Castile, who visited the court of Henry VIII. in 1506.

"I had a little nut tree, nothing would it bear,
But a golden nutmeg and a silver pear;
The king of Spain's daughter came to visit me,
And all for the sake of my little nut tree."

Two more bear the dates of Elizabeth and James I.

"The rose is red, the grass is green,
Serve Queen Bess our noble queen," etc.

and,—

"There was a monkey climbed up a tree;
When he fell down, then down fell he."

ending with,—

"There was a navy went into Spain;
When it returned, it came back again."

These lines are supposed to allude to events in the reign of James I.

Though, as I have said, education was beginning at this time to be thought more of, the miseries, discomforts, and severities which attended scholars make it a cause of astonishment as well as admiration that there should have been so many who attained any eminence. The names of Michael Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Canova, Palissy, Salvator Rosa, Mirandola—the latter of whom it is said at the age of eighteen was master of two-and-twenty languages—give proofs of talent unsurpassed in these brighter days. And yet the following description of a school before the Reformation is an example of the only help afforded in too many places :*—

"The school-house was the worst in the town, the walls and floors were filthy; wind and rain and snow beat in through the doorways and unglazed window spaces. The children were covered with vermin, and half naked. There were few books, and the scholar had

* "The Boy makes the Man." By W. H. Davenport Adams.

frequently to write out his own copy. The Latin was monkish and barbarous; the grammar no better; the teacher often worse than either. There was no system, but a scramble for learning, where the strongest came off best. A lad was often twenty before he understood his grammar or could speak a word or two of such Latin as was then in vogue. The elder boys, or Bauhauten, tyrannized over the younger, or Schutzen,—an elaborate and cruel system of 'fagging.' A Bauhaut would have three or four fags who begged or stole for him, though they were sometimes so hungry themselves that they would fight with the dogs for a bone.

"The Bauhaut claimed all their earnings, and compelled them to give up even what had been bestowed on them for their own use. Singing 'salves' and 'requiems,' whimpering false stories to the tradesmen's wives, thieving if there was a chance, sleeping in winter on the school hearth and in summer in the churchyard, 'like pigs in straw,' assisting at mass, chanting the

responsoria, frozen in the cold churches till they were crippled, trying to get by heart a Latin syntax, and wandering vagabond-like from school to school, would sum up the life of thousands."

Compare this description with the schools provided for the young of this age; and yet in spite of these great difficulties men made themselves names which, while the world lasts, can never be forgotten.

In the little book from which I have quoted this account of early schools are anecdotes of the boyhood of these great men I have named, and amongst them all Palissy's life is perhaps the saddest and most interesting; as grand a story as is on record, of surpassing patience and untiring perseverance.

Of the dress of children about the time we have now arrived at, a good idea may be formed from this picture of two German children, (for the dress of the nations was similar,) and one younger, from a group supposed to be the children of Henry VII. Nets of gold, from

which the hair escaped and hung down, were amongst the prettiest style of head-dresses, and the most suitable to the young girls.

The amusements seem the same as in the preceding reigns: Quintain tilting at the ring,

Children of the time of Henry VII.

and foot-ball, jousting, etc. But we find now toys which must have pleased the little boys of that day as much as they probably would now,—they were called jousting toys, and were models of knights in full armour, with their

lances manufactured in brass; there were four wheels to the stand on which they were placed, with a hole in front for the insertion of a cord. The man could easily be separated

Jousting toy.

from the horse, and a smart blow on helmet or shield would easily unseat him. Two of these toys were of course necessary to play with, each of them having the string affixed to the stand; and being then placed at a distance

from each other, they were violently drawn together as if tilting, and by the concussion the riders were easily unseated.

This picture here represents a boy mounted on a wooden horse, drawn by his companions,

Playing at horses.

tilting at a miniature Quintain. Whether the horse ever had a head or not, does not appear; or perhaps the artist deemed it more natural to draw the wooden animal in the condition which it would probably be in after having been subjected to the tender mercies of two or three boys. From a German woodcut of the

time, 1549, it appears that the hobby-horse and whip were even then numbered amongst children's toys. Leap-frog, wrestling, skating, skipping, ninepins, skittles, marbles, are all mentioned as amusements of this age.

The increase of learning does not seem to have extended to writing, for there is an anecdote in a letter of 1516, which gives an account of some written paper of rebellious tendency being stuck on Paul's Church, and in order to discover the author of it, the Aldermen of London were ordered to discover who could write! Does not that seem strange to us now?

In the reign of Henry VIII. St. Paul's school was founded, and the building of Christ's Church in Oxford commenced by Wolsey; but when he was disgraced, the king seized the revenues with which poor Wolsey had endowed it, and finished the building, taking to himself the credit of founding it. The good young king who succeeded his father converted Christ's Hospital, which was an old

religious house, into a school, and the dress the boys still wear is the fac-simile of that worn by the citizens in the reign of Edward VI., with the addition of a small flat cap, which has been of late years discarded by the boys, who now in the wind and rain run about bare-headed.

CHAPTER IV.

Female Dresses—The Invention of Pins—Children's Breakfasts—Queen Elizabeth—Christening Presents—The early age at which children began life.

THE female dresses in the reigns of Edward VI. and Mary were composed of the fashions which immediately preceded them; and there were few novelties until the reign of Elizabeth. In this reign pins were invented, which must have been a great improvement on the wooden skewers which had been used to serve the purpose. Needles did not appear until the next reign, when a Spanish negro came to London and made some, but, refusing to tell his art, they were not made in any quantity till long after.

It may, perhaps, be amusing to you to learn in what way the little ones were fed, so I will transcribe here the breakfast allowance served "to my Lord Percy and Mr. Thomas Percy," the elder children of the Earl of Northumberland, in 1512, which Mr. Knight tells us was "compiled in a household book by Bishop Percy":—"Half a loaf of household bread, a manchet (or cake), one pottle of beer (two quarts), a chicken or three mutton bones, boiled;" for the nursery, for my Lady Margaret and Mr. Ingram Percy, "quite little children," "a manchet, one quart of beer, and three mutton bones, boiled." On fish days the children had a manchet, a quart of beer, a dish of butter, a piece of salt fish, a dish of sprats, or three white herrings. Is not that a funny breakfast for little children?

Spinning formed a general occupation amongst the ladies of this period, and the spinning-wheel was considered a necessary implement, as much in the castle as the

cottage. And tables with leaves, folding tables, desks, and cupboards, we hear of now, so that the rooms must have had a more homelike and comfortable aspect than before; but in all the descriptions I read I can find nothing which speaks of the "little ones." In

Cradle, time of Elizabeth.

describing the furniture or contents of a house now, we might have to tell of the high chair for "baby;" the high fender, to save that little tyrant that rules the house from being burnt; the cot wherein his little majesty reposes; the toy cupboard, with its countless treasures;

the rocking-horse, on which he takes his exercise; the nursery yacht, in which he can go his imaginary sea-voyages. But no such articles of furniture can I find in these mediæval days: only the cradles give us any proof of the existence of these little "well-springs of pleasure." This picture of one is of the time of Queen Elizabeth, and may therefore be such an one as the great queen herself was lulled to rest in.

It must be a much easier matter, one would fancy, for the children to be good and happy now than then. Imagine what you young folks would think to be obliged to stand in your parents' presence, even grown-up girls; never to speak unless spoken to; and when tired of standing, to have to kneel! Mrs. Markham, in her amusing "History of England," says the ladies in Queen Mary's time used to carry in their hands fans with handles a yard long, to beat their daughters with! Roger Ascham, tutor to Queen Elizabeth, wrote a book called "The Schoolmaster," which originated

through mention being made at dinner that some Eton scholars had run away from school for fear of beating. Ascham said "he thought young children were sooner allured by love than driven by beating to attain good learning;" and hearing afterwards, in a conversation with a friend, that the severity of a schoolmaster had made him, as a child, dislike learning, he bethought him to perfect "some little treatise for a New Year's gift that Christmas;" but it grew as he worked, into "The Schoolmaster; showing a plain and perfect way of teaching the learned languages." In it the good old man says: "Beat a child if he dance not well, and cherish him though he learn not well,—ye shall have him unwilling to go to dance, and glad to go to his book. Knock him always when he draweth the shaft ill, and favour him again though he fault at his book, —ye shall have him very loth to be in the field, and very willing to go to school.

"If ever the nature of man be given at any time more than another to receive goodness,

it is in innocency of young years, before that experience of evil have taken root in him. For the pure, clean root of a sweet young babe is like the finest wax, most able to receive the best and fairest printings, and like a bright new silver dish never occupied, to receive and keep clean any good thing that is put into it."

Talking of Roger Ascham reminds me that I must tell you that a change of fashion had been gradually coming on, and that on the accession of Elizabeth the habit which was called the Elizabethan costume was fully established. Pocket-handkerchiefs up to this time had not been considered important articles of dress, but Queen Elizabeth's are mentioned as made of rich silk or cambric edged with gold. The mothers of these times must have had one expense spared them. Think of the handkerchiefs provided for boys and girls now, and the difference between the dozen respectable ones sent to school and the few rags which come home!

In a book speaking of the reign of James

I., it states that christening presents of plate were unusual, but "christening shirts were given, with little bands and cuffs wrought with silk or blue thread," but the baby Elizabeth was presented at *her* christening with "a standing cup of gold fretted with pearl, three gilt bowls with covers, and three standing bowls" graven all gilt, "with a cover." The font in which she was christened was of silver, over it a canopy of crimson satin fringed with gold; the babe was dressed in a mantle of purple velvet, with a long train trimmed with ermine, and was carried to church by a Duchess, who was one of the sponsors — another Duchess and the Archbishop of Canterbury completing the number. But this splendid beginning of a life destined to be so glorious received a check after the death of her poor mother; for by a letter from her governess to Lord Cromwell she seemed actually to need clothes; but she speaks most highly of her character, saying, she is "as toward a child and as gentle of condition as I ever knew

in my life." She was quick at needlework, and industrious, too; for at six years old she made her baby brother Edward VI.'s christening shirt—an example of industry, I think, to our little folks, some of whom at that age now can scarcely thread their needles.

Though, as I have said before, children in the early times were but lightly considered, it is curious to remark how early they began their life in the world, especially the royal children: wives, mothers, and widows, kings and warriors, at ages when you happier little ones are romping in your nurseries, imaginary mothers of waxen babies, or conquerors at games of football and cricket,—captains of schools instead of armies.

At twelve years old, William, the son of Henry I., was presented to the states of Normandy as their Duke, and fealty sworn to him, and at fifteen by his father's side was fighting. His sister was *married* at the same early age (twelve) to the Emperor Henry V. Henry, the son of Henry II., was married to Marguerite,

daughter of Louis VII., when she was *three!* and the little bride and bridegroom were sent to the celebrated Thomas à Becket afterwards to be educated. The wife of King John was fifteen, and of Henry III. scarcely fourteen!—he himself being made king when he was eight years old. Joanna, daughter of Edward II., was married at five years old to David Bruce of Scotland, himself only two years older; and above all, Isabella of Valois, the second wife of Richard II., was scarcely eight years old! When the English nobles waited on her, and the Earl Marshall dropped down upon his knee, saying, "Madam, if it please God, you shall be our lady and queen," she replied instantly and without any one prompting her, "Sir, if it please God and my lord and father that I be queen of England, I shall be well pleased thereat, for I have been told I shall then be a great lady." This answer pleased them all, and after her espousals she was styled the Queen of England; and an old chronicler tells us it was pretty to see her, young as she was, practising

how to act queen." She was termed "the Little," from her tender age; and when she entered London, such crowds were collected to see her, that nine persons were crushed to death. She was a widow at thirteen! She was married a second time at eighteen, to her cousin, younger than herself, and terminated her life at the early age of twenty-two, beloved by all who knew her, and passionately mourned by her young husband, who, himself a celebrated poet, wrote a touching elegy in her praise, concluding thus :—

"Who in herself was so complete,
I think that she was ta'en
By God, to deck His paradise,
And with His saints to reign.
For well she doth become the skies,
Whom while on earth each one did prize,
The fairest thing to mortal eyes."

Katherine, wife of Henry V. carried her infant son, some eight or ten months old, on a moving throne through the City, and at the age of two years he was taken in state to St. Paul's,

where he knelt at the high altar, and then, to the delight of the people, was placed on a horse and led through the streets. The Earl of Warwick, to whom was given the guardianship of the king's person, must have *carried* him on all state occasions, while a governess and nurse had possession of him in private! Poor little boy! how much happier and better for him to have been playing at horses astride a nursery chair, or driving a team of little companions harnessed with string round the palace gardens! So early wearied with pomp and ceremony, his grave and contemplative disposition shrank at last from the cares and wearisome demands on his time; and absorbed in his studies, he resigned his government to his young queen, whom he had married when she was fifteen; and gradually his mind was affected, and for long he did not know or care for anything, nor notice his baby-son—that little son whose young life was one scene of terror and distress, alternately watching deadly fights, escaping from cruel enemies, bearing hunger and thirst—indebted

for his own and his mother's life at last to a robber who gave them shelter in his den.

Sadder life there is scarcely in history than that of Henry VI., beginning his kingly career while yet in arms, and ending it murdered in a prison; and the young brave prince his son, who had with such fortitude borne such sorrows, was slaughtered on the battle-field of Tewkesbury, never wearing the crown his mother had spent her life in trying to win for him.

CHAPTER V.

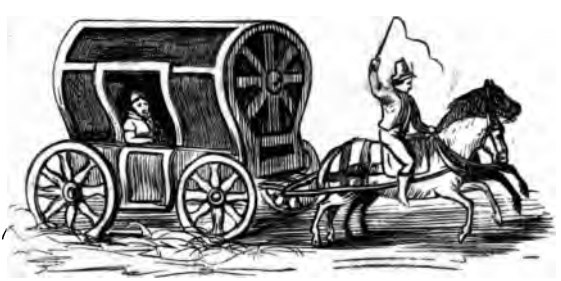
Stockings first worn—Anecdote of Prince Henry—Mode of Travelling—First Hackney Coach—Love of Pets—Anecdote of Cromwell—Dramatic announcements—Christmas Sports.

TO recall these records of child-life, I have gone back a little, and so must take up my history again in the reign of Elizabeth. In her reign stockings were first worn, made of silk and worsted, the Queen herself receiving a pair of black silk from her silk-woman as a present. The pictures of Elizabethan dress you have no doubt often seen; the changes were not great during the reign of James I., and this picture—the children of the Duke of Buckingham—will show you how funny the poor little babies of that date looked.

It may be amusing to know that in this reign

Children of the Duke of Buckingham.

hackney coaches were in use, but they were



Hackney Coach.

monstrous heavy vehicles, more like waggons,

in which eight persons could be accommodated, but still perhaps somewhat better than the Pillion, a drawing of which you see here. I think I should have preferred any kind of cart or coach to that. Prince Henry, the king's

Lady on Pillion.

eldest son, who died at eighteen, I must also just mention in this place, as he is said at the age of seven to have written his father a Latin letter! which I think would be considered as great a feat now as then.

A pretty story is also told of this amiable prince. He had a great horror of the profane and sad habit of swearing, and boxes were kept in his three houses to put the fines in, which he levied against those of his attendants who ever indulged in it. The money thus collected was given to the poor. One day, when he was hunting, a butcher's dog passing with his master killed the stag, to the great anger of the huntsmen, who wished to make the Prince angry with the butcher, and give him some punishment; but the Prince calmly said, "What if the butcher's dog killed the stag? the butcher could not help it." They remarked, that his father would have sworn so that no one could bear it. "Why, all the pleasure in the world is not worth an oath," answered the Prince. The distress of the nation at his early death was unbounded, but the king his father showed a perfect indifference to his loss; perhaps he was glad to be rid of a son by contrast with whom he lost so much, and who must have been a constant reproach to him.

A picture, by Vandyck, now at Windsor, gives us portraits of the children of Charles I., and so enables us to realize the costume, which still, as in other reigns, seems to me badly adapted to the restless activity and love of romping natural to a little child.

The old domestic games still continued, but some sad tastes had been gradually creeping in at the beginning of the fifteenth century—gambling and drinking, even among the ladies and the clergy. The innocent taste for gardening was now much neglected, and the garden itself was more as a place for pastimes than for the culture of flowers. A bowling-green was an indispensable thing, as the games of bowls and skittles, and such-like exercises, were the favourite amusements of all classes. Cock-fighting was another horrid sport much delighted in; and, indeed, fighting of all kinds. Little boys were encouraged to fight in the streets, even by their fathers and mothers; and Mr. Wright, in his charming book which I have so frequently alluded to, gives a long

letter from a foreign writer describing the fighting of boys in the streets.

The love of pets was still as prevalent as in much earlier times—especially monkeys; and one of these funny but mischievous creatures might have altered the history of England as it is related of Cromwell, who was about this time making himself famous. I can now tell it you. It appears that when he was a baby, on a visit to his grandfather, old Sir Henry Cromwell, while his nurse was out of the way a large monkey snatched him out of the cradle and ran with him to the top of the house, to the terror of all—especially, as you may think, of his mother. They could not catch him, so they placed feather beds round the house, for the poor child to fall on if the animal dropped him; but the monkey had a better idea of nursing than they gave him credit for. After airing himself and his charge as much as he deemed necessary, he came back into the house by the way he got out, and deposited the child in safety.

There was in this reign, as it were, two costumes; for the Republican Roundheads adopted an extreme simplicity, in strong contrast to the very elegant dress of the Cavaliers. A description of the dress of Cromwell himself, by an eye-witness, marks strikingly the contrast to the silk or velvet doublet, with the broad Flemish hat with jewelled hat-band and plume of feathers, the high-heeled boots, ruffled with rich lace, and collar of the same costly material. Sir Philip Warwick thus describes the dress of the great Cromwell. "He wore," he says, "a plain cloth suit, which seemed to have been made by an ill country tailor; his linen was plain and not very clean; and I remember a speck or two of blood upon his linen band, which was not much larger than his collar; and his hat was without a hat-band."

Now, all the little boys on the Roundhead side must have been attired something in this manner, and I think they must have felt some little natural envy at the gorgeous dresses of the young Cavaliers. Even if this feeling did not

exist amongst the boys, I should think the girls must have rather felt like a little Quaker girl of whom I once heard, who, taking up a smart pink bonnet belonging to a little companion, put it on, and surveying her pretty face

The First Stage.

in the glass, exclaimed, "Oh, dear! I wish I wasn't a Friend."

Dramatic amusements were common festivities in this reign. The stage was strewn with rushes; the ground was the pit; and the hour for representation three o'clock in the afternoon. A shilling was the highest price

for a best box, then called a room. A play called "Gammer Gurton's Needle," at the end of the sixteenth century, was the first comedy ever played, I believe. Boys used to play the female parts until Sir William Davenant introduced women in the seventeenth century.

Christmas sports were playing at cards for counters, chess, draughts, jack puddings in the hall, fiddlers and musicians, who were entertained with a black jack of beer and a Christmas pie; the hobby-horse dance; hot cockles, a pendulous stick, at one end an apple, at the other a candle, so that he who bit at the one burned his nose; blind man's buff, forfeits, and all kinds of sports. To conduct these revels was the Lord of Misrule, who was crowned and attended royally for twelve days.

On Innocents' Day, an old custom of our ancestors was to flog the poor children in their beds, not as a punishment, but to impress on their minds the murder of the Innocents—a

less cheerful way of ending the merry Christmas revels even than by a return to school. I think our children, after all I have told them, will not wish to change places with those of olden time, but rejoice and be grateful for the love and care which is now so lavishly bestowed on them.

CHAPTER VI.

Eton Montem—Fairs—Costumes—Wearing Rings —Account of Daniel Huet—Holidays restored—Literature—Family Tea-kettle and Coffee-pot—Chap-books.

THE middle of the seventeenth century, with its political strifes and civil war, was a dreary age as to sports and pastimes. It must have been a dull time for the children. How they must have missed the merry May Day,—the raising of the may-pole, brought on its ponderous waggon by a team of oxen, with garlands of flowers round their sturdy necks ; maidens in their gay kirtles, and the foresters in green, with the merry Robin Hood, Maid Marian, and Little John; then the morris-dancers, with the blithe music of the old piper

setting them all to join hands and dance, footing it as much to the music of their own light hearts as to his playing. Then the keeping of Whitsuntide and the sheep-shearing festivities, when "cheese cakes" and "warden pies" were looked forward to as pleasant delicacies; and the joyous harvest-feast, when the last load of corn was borne home on the waggon, with a figure all brilliantly attired standing amongst the golden sheaves, as Ceres, while tripping by the side came men and maidens shouting lustily. And Christmas, with its merry revels and music and pageants! Let us hope that with the abolition of the revelry there was not lost the spirit of gratitude for God's bounteous gifts which had first originated the keeping of the festivals.

Eton Montem was practised as early as Elizabeth, and continued in vogue until some thirty years ago, when it was done away with. The railroad, by bringing crowds of thieves and other bad characters from London, made what had been a joyous day of fun a mere

noisy and dangerous riot, so that it was deemed better to discontinue it. For the benefit of those of my young readers who may not have heard of the ceremony, I will describe it. The boy who was captain of the school chose a certain number of officers, and the whole party, dressed in magnificent fancy dresses, marched to Salt Hill shouting "Salt! salt!" (salt being a classical emblem for learning or wisdom), stopping in their progress every one, gentle or simple, for a contribution—even the stage-coaches, and in later years the train passengers also. The officers carried bags for the cash, and many times over three hundred pounds have been collected. The money was for the captain, and the amount collected depended on his popularity; but he was expected to give a grand dinner to the boys, and pay all the expenses of the day, which no doubt took much of the "gilt off the gingerbread." The use of this homely saying reminds me of fairs, as from the gingerbread kings, covered with gold paper, sold at them, this saying comes.

I think the first fair of any great notoriety was Charlton Fair, commonly called Horn Fair, held on St. Luke's Day; and taking its name from the custom of carrying and wearing horns, which appears to have originated from the symbol accompanying the figure of St. Luke, which is an ox or cow with very demonstrative horns. At this fair rams' horns were sold, and even the gingerbread figures had horns. Some date the fair as a grant from King John, but this is disputed. Bartholomew Fair comes next in order; Smithfield, where it was held, was a market-place for cattle, hay, and straw, and James I. ordered it to be paved.

Unhappily, fairs, which might have been a really agreeable excuse for a merry day in the open air, became only excuses for drunkenness and rioting, and have been by degrees almost done away with; but by the little ones they must have been anxiously looked forward to, and the "gingerbread husbands" considered an indispensable fairing. I do not know at which fair "Johnny" was so long kept—in

the dear old song of "What can the matter be?" when he promised to buy some little maiden a bunch of blue ribbands to tie up her "bonny brown hair;" but perhaps the rough work that too often went on at these popular amusements caused her anxiety, and her feeling that something must "be the matter."

With the death of Cromwell, and accession of the "Merry Monarch," brighter days came back. Fashion resumed her throne; and as if in revenge for her long desertion, she rushed into extravagance and excess. As says a well-known authority on costume, "the dress, which in the reign of Charles I. had reached the highest point of picturesque splendour, degenerated from this moment, and expired in the square coat, cocked hat, full-bottomed wig, and jack-boots of the following century."

In this reign the wearing of wigs became fashionable—a fashion, it is said, brought from France. The king, Louis XIV., had as a boy a beautiful head of hair, which hung in long curls on his shoulders; the courtiers had wigs

made to imitate his natural locks, which obtained the name of "peruke." The fashion was soon conveyed to England, and adopted by the gentlemen under the name of periwig. Louis, when he lost his hair, returned the compliment of his courtiers by wearing a wig. Stockings of leather, silk, woollen, and worsted were worn by men and children, and the neck-cloth of Brussels or Flanders lace tied in a knot, hanging down squarely. The dress of the women was even in more marked contrast to the stately stiffness of their ancestors. Elegant negligence characterized it. The hair, falling in soft curls on their shoulders, was simply kept in control by a bandeau of jewels, or fastened back by a flower—a style that, if imitated now, would banish the huge, ungraceful, and unmeaning "lump" which has been so long disfiguring the heads of our young ladies. So fashionable even were the curled wigs for gentlemen at this period—adopted also by quite boys—that a female hair-dresser boasted that she could cut and curl boys' hair

in so fine a way that it should be impossible to know it to be their own hair.

In this reign lived Daniel Huet, famous for his extraordinary love of study, and for being one of the promoters of an edition of the Classics made for the use of the Dauphin, called the "Delphin edition." I mention him here, as in his memoirs he describes amusingly his difficulties in the pursuit of knowledge, and his perseverance may be an encouragement. Notwithstanding his intense application to learning, he lived to the fine old age of ninety-one, having resigned a bishopric to indulge in peace his literary tastes. He was an orphan, and brought up by an aunt; and the torments of his cousins, whose amusement, he says, was running, jumping, and playing, and who no doubt considered him a sad, dull, and stupid fellow, he amusingly describes. After mentioning a variety of ways in which they tormented him, he says: "In order to indulge my taste, it was my custom to rise with the sun whilst they were bound in sleep,

and hide myself in the wood, or seek some thick shade which might conceal me from their sight while I was reading and studying in quiet. It was their practice, however, to hunt amongst the bushes, and by throwing stones or wet sods, or squirting water through the branches, to drive me from my hiding-places." It strikes me by this account that the little ones of the seventeenth century strongly resembled those of the nineteenth, and that there are rather more children like the troublesome cousins than the studious Huet.

With the mirthful, musical Charles, music, which had been stopped by the Puritans, was restored, and the holidays were again observed in true old English fashion. On Valentine's Day presents of silk stockings, garters, and jewellery were sent to the fair valentines. On the 1st of May, girls and matrons went to the fields to gather May-dew to wash their faces, and milkmaids danced in the street with their pails wreathed with garlands. New Year's Day was observed as a season for gifts, and

the king had an offering in money from his nobles. Circulating libraries commenced in this reign, and no doubt were a boon to those who had quiet tastes, and found no amusement in bull-baiting, bear-baiting, and cock-fighting.

The short reigns of James II. and William and Mary have but little change in the dress. The peruke or periwig was still worn, and it became the fashion to comb the wig with combs of beautiful workmanship carried in the pocket with the snuff-box. The broad-brimmed hat was turned up or cocked, and "falling bands" had given place to small Geneva bands; the rich lace neckcloth was still worn, but so long as to pass the ends through the button-holes of the waistcoats. Shoe-buckles began to be worn in place of rosettes. The long flowing ringlets of the women were banished, and the hair combed up from the forehead and surmounted by piles of riband and lace in rows. Tight sleeves and ruffles replaced the elegant full sleeve, and a stomacher covered the neck; and with little variety this style

was continued through the reign of Queen Anne.

With the mention of this queen our thoughts come back to literature, and we begin to see the beginning of a larger contribution to children's books. The fairy tales came, of which compositions Dickens wrote: "It would be hard to estimate the amount of gentleness and mercy which has made its way among us through these slight channels. Forbearance, courtesy, consideration for the poor and aged, kind treatment of animals, the love of nature, abhorrence of tyranny and brute force—many such good things have been nourished in the child's heart by this powerful aid. It has greatly helped to keep us ever young, by preserving through our worldly ways one slender track not overgrown with weeds where we may walk with our children, sharing their delights."

"Robinson Crusoe," another immortal book, founded, it is supposed, on the adventures of Alexander Selkirk, was published in this reign;

and our hero "Jack the Giant Killer," of illustrious memory, and "Gulliver's Travels;" and yet how few in comparison with the flood of child literature to be found now! Still it was a step in the right direction; but it is a wonder how the books attained the popularity they did with children, written in such quaint and wordy style as they were even up to the beginning of this century. The pains taken for the entertainment of our little folks now is in such singular contrast, that I am continually obliged to notice it; and the question exists in my mind, will they be greater hereafter than Dryden, Pope, Steele, Addison,—who had only such meagre food to nourish their minds as was to be found in their day, and yet have made themselves names which shall never die?

In the reigns of the first Georges but little was done for the improvement or amusement of the children. The schooling of girls ended when they were fifteen, and but little was taught them during that brief period. Nor

were boys much better instructed: a "little Latin and less Greek," the accomplishments of dancing and music, and the grand tour to finish with, and then the young man was launched into society, having only picked up in his rambles the fashions and frivolities of foreign countries.

Had children, however, been educated with a taste for reading, there was but little fit for them to read. In the catalogue of chap-books I have before referred to, there is one bearing no date, but apparently belonging to this time, called "The Afflicted Parents; or, the Undutiful Child punished." The title-page describes the tale as follows: "Showing how a gentleman living in the city of Chester had two children—a son, and a daughter who was about two years younger than the son; how the girl gave good advice to her brother; how he rejected it, and knocked her down, left her for dead, and then went away; how an angel appeared to him, and how he discovered the murder—was taken up, tried, cast, and con-

demned to die. Showing how he was executed with two highwaymen, being cut down, put into his coffin, carried home to his father's house, and preparing for his funeral. How he came to life again; how he sent for a minister and discovered to him several strange things, which after he had related he was executed a second time for a warning to all disobedient children."

Another is called, "A Timely Warning to Rash and Disobedient Children; being a strange and wonderful history of a young gentleman who sold himself to the Evil One;" a description of story formerly very common, and believed in by the ignorant. These appear to be the style of stories at this age provided for the little ones. A powerful belief in witchcraft and fortune-telling produced a number of books on this subject, which could not have been healthy reading for either young or old. Speaking of tales at this period reminds me of one which is to be found in the "Child's Own Book," which my

little readers will remember, under the title of "Fatal and Fortune," wherein Fatal was whipped whenever Fortune was naughty and refused to learn. This plan was actually tried with the young king Louis XV. by his governess. His hatred of learning was so great, and his conduct so bad in every way, that the lady, feeling she could not chastise a king, adopted this method of reproof; but his disposition was too mean and ungenerous to be induced to learn or improve by such means. He grew up vicious and ignorant, and has the unenviable notoriety of being the worst king of his race. But I think it not improbable that the story I mention was suggested by the fact, as we are indebted to our French neighbours for the charming fairy tales which still are, and I hope ever will remain, amongst the most popular with our little ones.

Mrs. Hannah More, Mrs. Barbauld, Mrs. Charlotte Smith, and Mrs. Inchbald, were in the reign of George II. beginning their

career of authorship, but they did not arrive at the height of their popularity until a later date.

In 1793 a book called "The Looking-Glass" was published, being a set of tales chiefly translated from a book called "L'Ami des Enfans." I shall quote a page of it, and give you a specimen of the pictures contained, as it will amuse you to contrast it with the books now provided for you. The story, consisting of three pages, is that of a mother who, having a little boy and girl, has lavished the warmest affection on the boy, who is stated to be a "little cupid," to the neglect of his sister, who is painfully affected by the difference shown, but bears it with wonderful amiability. The mother has a severe illness, during which Leonora nurses her with the greatest care and devotion. On her recovery, however, Mrs. Lennox still treats her daughter with the same severity; but one day, while conversing with her children on her painful illness, and praising them for the anxiety they had shown, she bids

them ask whatever is most pleasing to them, and they shall have it; and now, in the words of the book.

She, "first addressing herself to Adolphus, desired to know what he would choose, and his desire was to have a cane and a watch, which his mother promised he should have the next morning. 'And pray, Leonora' (said Mrs. Lennox), 'what is your wish?' 'Me, mamma, me?' (answered she, trembling), 'if you do but love me, I have nothing left to wish for.' 'That is not an answer' (replied her mother); 'you shall have your recompence likewise, miss, therefore speak your wish instantly.'

"However accustomed Leonora might have been to this severe tone, yet she felt it on this occasion more sensibly than ever before. She threw herself at her mother's feet, looked up to her with streaming eyes swimming in tears, and instantly hiding her face with both her hands, lisped out these words: 'Only give me two kisses such as you give my brother.'

"What heart could fail to relent at these words? Mrs. Lennox felt all the tender sentiments of a parent arise in her heart, and taking her up in her arms, she clasped her to her breast, and loaded her with kisses. The sweet Leonora, who now for the first time received her mother's

From the "Looking Glass."

caresses, gave way to the effusion of her joy and love; she kissed her cheeks, her eyes, her breast, and her hands; and Adolphus, who loved his sister, mixed his embraces with hers; thus all had a share in this scene of unexpected happiness."

Names and books still read and loved, however, saw the light in the reign of the three Georges. Miss Burney, whose "Camilla," "Evelina," and "Cecilia," are still in existence; Mrs. Inchbald, William Godwin, Mrs. Radcliffe, Mrs. Opie, and the never-to-be-forgotten Miss Edgeworth, who commenced her brilliant career by her story of "Belinda." Her works are familiar still to all juvenile readers, and "children of a larger growth" can read with interest her charming "Moral Tales," and the sweet story of "Helen." Amongst the "Moral Tales" is a play called Eton Montem, which I have described to you some pages back. But even then how scant was the child's library compared to the present day—to the flood of books which is now, as it were, poured on the infant mind; and not only written in admirable style, suited to the comprehension of a child, but also illustrated most beautifully, so that the eye is educated to beauty of form and colour!

Another curious little book fell into my

hands, published in 1830, with no author's name attached to it, which relates the following strange story:—A little boy went to a fair, and saw there a tea-kettle and coffee-pot large enough for a family to live in! A travelling tinker

Family Tea-kettle and Coffee-pot.

had made them to contain his tools *and* his family. The tea-kettle he made first, fixing it on wheels and having a little horse to draw it from place to place. In time the tea-kettle

grew too small for the family, so he added another apartment in the shape of a coffee-pot; this served for a bedroom, so that one or more of the children, it might be said, were born in a coffee-pot and brought up in a tea-kettle. The book is called "A Present for a Little Boy," containing about twenty or thirty pages of print, and the strangest pictures—price one shilling; but I have no doubt it afforded as much amusement then as the beautifully coloured Aunt Louisa toy-books do now.

Amongst the catalogue of chap-books—which were collections of paper books—sold in the streets for a penny, I find our old friends the "Seven Champions of Christendom," "Tom Thumb," "The Children in the Wood," and "Valentine and Orson," as far back as 1598. One of the earliest forms of fairy tale, though, is, I should think, "The Frolics of Robin Goodfellow."

Many now living can remember the gold-paper books sold by Tabart and Tegg, containing these old favourites, with "Jack the

Giant Killer," "Goody Two Shoes," "Blue Beard," "Cinderella," "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," with other of those enchanting stories which, as we r ecall them in after years, bring back the sweet memories of happy childhood.

CHAPTER VII.

Dutch Toys—Dolls—Dresses of Children—Public Amusements—Master D'Arblay's Visit to the Queen of George III.—Dolls' Houses—Modern Toys.

I MUST now make allusion to the boxes of toys constructed in the old German town of Nuremburg, which are still to be found in every nursery, and beloved by every child. An old distich says — and I can remember feeling very much affronted when it was quoted to me,—

"What the children of Holland take pleasure in making,
The children of England take pleasure in breaking."

It is to the busy fingers of little Dutch children our own English ones are indebted for those charming farms; those little towns

with the red-roofed houses; the sheep-folds; the boxes of furniture; King Nutcracker himself, and the endless Dutch dolls, which are now being supplanted by china ones. Between the little images which are mentioned as the playthings of the Roman and early Christian children I can discern no account of this last-

Degrees of Comparison.

named toy; but that in all ages the natural mother-love inherent in little girls has made a doll an indispensable part of their child-existence there can be no doubt, and the wonderful improvement in their beauty in the last century is very noticeable.

The fearful wooden monstrosity, painted a full pink, with a sharp point for a nose, which must have inflicted a wound, every time its poor little mother kissed it, its black woolly hair, and its strange shapeless body, with a kind of stem as a substitute for legs, I can just remember. The very large Dutch dolls, with yellow ear-rings in their ears, were a decided improvement. The wax face, with the sawdust body and leather arms and legs, was a still further refinement; and then these members were composed of wax, and the staring eyes could be closed in slumber by a wire, which after some weeks of diligent using became so loose that dolly went to sleep at most inopportune moments, and indeed was seldom found quite awake. Then came composition dolls, leather dolls, indiarubber, china, and the exquisite modelled dolls which adorn the toy-shops now. Who can help stopping in the Burlington Arcade to look at the variety of elaborately-dressed figures, in all sizes, which make little eyes sparkle and little hearts yearn to possess one?

—the dimpled shoulders and chubby arms and legs, the real soft hair hanging down the back, or in short shiny curls adorning the head of a pretty boy-doll, in his plaid frock and Scotch cap; the little lady in full fashionable costume, who tells you she can cry, and walk, and call "papa" and "mamma," all forming such an attractive window that it is a matter of difficulty to get the little ones by. But still the same amount of affection and interest was lavished on their less beautiful ancestors, and I can remember loving intensely an unhappy object who had lost one eye and her wig, and I think I loved it the more because it was so afflicted—turning its affliction to account, with the ingenuity of my age, by introducing crumbs of cake or bread into the vacant space which the eyes had left, and imagining I was feeding it—for this process had always troubled me, and I was charmed to find the food disappearing so fast, which before I had been compelled to eat myself. Another refinement in the visual organs of the wax babies is the weight in the head

which closes the eyes when the doll lies down, and answers much better than the wire; but we must not travel so far down as this. In the year 1715, to which I have now brought you, toys of all kinds were far behind the present; and I think if a little child of that

From Hogarth.

From Gillray.

age could be transported into one of our toy-shops, he would think he had entered fairy-land.

The reigns of George I. and II. have Hogarth for their illustrator, and introduce small frilled or puffed caps, loose gowns called "sacques,"

which were also mentioned as early as the reign of Charles II. The hoop was still worn, only kept altering its shape, until the fourth George abolished it altogether. Aprons had become part of the dress of a fashionable lady during this century, shortened and lengthened according to the caprices of fashion. In the picture from "The Looking-Glass," you will see the mother wears a long apron; and in all the pictures which head the several tales the children are portrayed in the same dresses as their parents. The hair is cut across the forehead, as it has lately been the fashion, and hangs down the back, with the mob cap surmounting it, tied round with a coloured riband. The foolish fashion of patches on the face, and powder on the hair did not extend to the children. Satires were written in quantities against the extravagance of dress; caricatures of the gigantic headgear; but no ridicule affected them, nor was the fashion changed till, at the time of the revolution, it rushed from one extreme to the other; and

from the long peaked waist and hooped petticoats with the rich brocaded satins, it went to the lightest possible stuffs, clinging to the form, and the waist, actually under the armpits.

The amusements of this date were scarcely changed in name or form, but improved in taste. The theatre was more decorous. Of the public gardens, Ranelagh, which had been so fashionable, was entirely done away with, and Vauxhall left to the middle classes. And in Miss Burney's Diary, after she became Madame D'Arblay, she mentions as a new entertainment a breakfast given in 1792. Another novelty introduced in 1802 was called a picnic supper; and was no doubt the beginning of those out-of-door amusements so enjoyable in the sultry summer days, and which by country children are looked forward to as one of the greatest summer treats. The picnics, however, of 1802, were on this wise: the picnic supper consisted of several dishes, and the subscribers to the entertainment had a bill of fare pre-

sented to them, with a number to each dish, and the number of the lot which each drew obliged him to provide the dish with the corresponding number, and this he took with him or sent by a servant. It there were a large number of subscribers, a handsome supper might be provided at a small expense. Talking of Madame D'Arblay's Diary reminds me that it may be amusing to my little readers to hear an account which she gives, in some letters published after her death, of her visit with her baby-boy to the Palace.

In her girlhood Madame D'Arblay made one of the household of the Queen of George III., and after her marriage and residence abroad she came back to England with her little boy, and was no doubt most delighted to receive a command from her Majesty, desiring her to bring the child to see her at ten o'clock in the morning. Of course, she says, they were punctual to the moment, and were shown into the Princess Elizabeth's apartments, where she evidently expected to see him, as playthings

were arranged on one of the numerous tables which were in the room. The Princess must have been fond of tables, for Madame D'Arblay says there must have been at least twenty there. The child, in a new muslin frock and sash, looked his best, and the Princess, finding he was too shy to allow her to take him in her arms, with great graciousness played with him, peeping at him through chairs, clapping her hands to him, but not attempting to touch him. They were then summoned to another Princess, who was at her toilet, and the child cautiously approached, drawn, his mother says, by his curiosity at the proceedings of the hair-dresser who was employed in raising one of those wondrous pyramids on the royal lady's head, I suppose, which it was the fashion then to wear; but he would not be touched, flying to his mother if they offered to take even his hand. At length the Princess Elizabeth came in with a page, laden with toys she had sent for; but though he eagerly snatched the dogs, the horses, a chaise, a watchman, a cobbler, he

stoutly still refused to be kissed, until the entrance of the Princess Elizabeth, when, to his mother's great astonishment, he left his toys to nestle in her arms. When the Queen sent for him to her apartments, he insisted on taking his toys with him. Her Majesty had a Noah's Ark ready for him, and was most gracious and kind to him, asking him first,—

"How is Papa."

"Papa's at 'Telsea" (Chelsea), stoutly answered baby, in no degree awed by the presence of royalty.

"And how does Grandpapa do?" asked the Queen.

"He's in the *t*oach," replied the child.

The Queen then admired his frock, and inquired if his mother made it, but he either could not or would not answer this question. The Queen herself showed him the Noah's Ark, and he was in raptures with the animals, calling out vigorously, "A *t*ow, a *t*ow—a bow-wow," as the different animals were presented to him; and when the Queen handed him

a cat, and asked him if he knew what that was, he said, "Its name is *t*alled Pussy;" but after the excitement of the Noah's Ark had somewhat subsided, he upset

Children (from a Fashion Book of 1827).

the Queen's work-box, cried for the things inside, and finally made his way into the Queen's bedroom, where her jewels were laid out ready for court-attire. The poor mother was quite alarmed lest the Queen should grow

angry with such behaviour, and ran to fetch him out of the room in her arms. Then the kind Queen ordered a page to bring him some cakes, and when his mother asked him what he said for it, he nodded his head, and said, "Tanky, Queen, tanky;" and his mother ends her story by saying how thankful she was to get him away without his disgracing her by any great breach of mischief or rebellion; and that they left the royal family "all smiles and graciousness."

Child-life in all times seems, you see, much the same; but there is no question that in comparing the old times with the new, the marked difference forced on our notice is the mode of treatment.

There were toys for them when they had time to play, certainly, but the expense of these placed all but the commonest out of the reach of the middle classes, and so this is their golden age. Care and culture of the highest kind is lavished on our little ones now; and perhaps we are going to the extreme in the hope

of giving Jack enough play to prevent his being a dull boy.

That amongst the toys of the last century was numbered a doll's house we know, and I received a description of one which had been in the family where my informant saw it since the days of Queen Anne: the little dolls in the costume of the period, the crockery, plate, all perfect, and the latter real silver. "The dolls," says the writer of the description, "represent masters and servants. It is like a tangible Hogarth." A maid-servant is warming a bed in one room, and the pan is of real silver, the bedclothes all perfect, and the whole set of kitchen utensils also complete. I should fancy it had been a model, and kept entirely as one, for if it had ever been in constant use by the children of a family, it would scarcely have been, I should imagine, in such preservation at the end of a hundred years! There was a photograph of one in "Aunt Judy" with a quantity of toys on the top of the house, amongst which we may recognize old friends

—a brick church, a house, a cart and horse, and a doll in a wonderful hat,—but it is larger than the one described to me, having nine rooms instead of six, and being differently disposed; but interesting as these are as relics of long ago, curious as it is to speculate on the tiny fingers which may have handled them, and the bright eyes that have admired them, still the extraordinary improvement, not only in the manufacture of each separate toy, but in the countless variety which fill our shops now, is truly wonderful.

Visit the toy-shops; see the modern dolls'-houses alone, with staircases and landings, the exquisite furniture, each separate piece a complete model; kitchens completely fitted with a stove and a boiler, into which water can really be poured, and all the *batterie de cuisine*, making an enthusiastic housekeeper wish herself a doll, so that her kitchen might be so complete. And the dolls themselves—why, their little mothers are not half so rich: the seal-skin coats trimmed with sable; the muffs,

the gloves, shoes, stockings, every article of wearing apparel; and the toilet requisites—brush, comb, pomade, powder and powder-puff, glass, and perfume, and scented soap; and even dolly's literary tastes provided for by a desk, with miniature paper and envelopes, and a bookcase with tiny books. She can travel, too, for her portmanteau and imperial can be purchased, and her railway rug nicely rolled up in its leather strap. She can go to the opera with opera-cloak, and fan, and opera-glass, and drawn in an elegant carriage, with her parasol, whip, and a pair of spirited ponies, with a dandy little groom to stand at their heads. The mechanical toys of this age, also, marvellously surpass the old days. The nigger playing the fiddle, winking at the spectators; the rabbit playing a tambour or a violoncello; a cow which is capable of being milked, from the fluid having been inserted through a trap-door in her back,—which by pressure of her head can utter a most natural "Moo;" as a beautifully-made lamb, with a real fleece, can

also utter its plaintive "Baa." In short, the child now can cease to "pretend" if it has only money to buy, for in our present shops there are toys to suit every age and every requirement for either sex.

There is a shop near Belgrave-square, before the window of which I, too, love to stand, feeling that seated on the ground amongst those exquisite toys I could fancy myself again a child. That gardener with his barrowful of plants! How delightful to wheel him before the dolls'-houses, and purchase some of the pots of flowers to adorn the balconies! The dinner service, with the table napkins in their silver rings! Fancy our setting it out for dolly's dinner! which we might first cook on that delightful kitchen range, with all its beautiful copper stewpans and saucepans.

> "Ah! well, not even in our dreams
> May we return to that sweet land of youth,
> That home of hope, of innocence and truth,
> Which as we farther roam but fairer seems."

Still we may keep its memory green, so

that in the joys and sorrows of our children we can truly sympathise by the keen remembrance of the days when we too were young.

With the hope that these histories of "real children" will have afforded my young readers some instruction as well as amusement, I now leave off writing, for the best of all reasons—because I have nothing more to say; for even that man of notoriously short memory, "the oldest inhabitant," will serve as a reference to the fourth George and William, besides many excellent books, which give the childhood of eminent men of that time. To make children happy goes a long way towards making them good, and good players make good workers; so success to those who help them play! And for the little ones themselves, God speed them in their play, and in their work, and God bless them always!

Watson and Hazell, Printers, London and Aylesbury.

NEW AND POPULAR WORKS

PUBLISHED BY

GRIFFITH AND FARRAN,

THE CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD, LONDON.

Joan of Arc, and the Times of Charles the Seventh, King of France. By Mrs. BRAY, Author of "The Good St. Louis," "Life of Stothard," etc. Post 8vo, cloth, price 7s. 6d.

The Good St. Louis and His Times. By Mrs. BRAY, Author of "The Life of Stothard," "Romance of the Tamar and Tavy," etc., with Portrait. Post 8vo, price 7s. 6d.

"Mrs. Bray is quite at home in her subject—she has furnished a valuable and interesting record of Louis' reign, abounding in anecdote, and full of the romance of Eastern warfare."—*Spectator.*

"The style of the narrative is bright and picturesque, and the facts derived from careful study of the best authorities."—*The Guardian.*

"We have here the history of one of the most saintly, and yet most secularly interesting, of mediæval kings admirably supplied in these pages."—*The Times.*

Sagas from the Far East; or Kalmouk and Mongolian Tales. With Historical Preface and Explanatory Notes by the Author of "Patranas," "Household Stories from the Land of Hofer," etc. Post 8vo, cloth, price 9s.

Emblems of Christian Life. Illustrated by W. HARRY ROGERS, in One Hundred Original Designs from the Writings of the Fathers, Old English Poets, etc. Printed by Whittingham, with Borders and Initials in Red. Square 8vo, price 10s. 6d. cloth elegant, gilt edges; 21s. Turkey morocco antique.

WORKS BY JOHN TIMBS, F.S.A.

Notabilia; or Curious and Amusing Facts about Many Things. Explained and Illustrated by JOHN TIMBS, F.S.A. Post 8vo, price 6s.

"There is a world of wisdom in this book—every page tells of something that readers and thinkers will desire to know."—*Art Journal.*

By the same Author.

Ancestral Stories and Traditions of Great Families. Illustrative of English History. With Frontispiece. Post 8vo, price 7s. 6d.

"An interesting and well-written book of many curious legends and historical facts."—*Literary Churchman.*

Nooks and Corners of English Life, Past and Present. With Illustrations. Second Edition. Post 8vo, price 6s.; gilt edges, 6s. 6d.

"A book which ought to find a place in one of the nooks and 'corners' of every library."—*The Reliquary.*

Strange Stories of the Animal World. A Book of Curious Contributions to Natural History. Illustrations by ZWECKER. Second Edition. Post 8vo, price 6s.; gilt edges, 6s. 6d.

"Among all the books of the season that will be studied with profit and pleasure, there is not one more meritorious in aim, or more successful in execution."—*Athenæum.*

ILLUMINATED GIFT BOOKS.

Every page richly printed in Gold and Colours from designs by SAMUEL STANESBY.

The Bridal Souvenir: containing the Choicest Thoughts of the Best Authors in Prose and Verse. New Edition, with a Portrait of the Princess Royal. Elegantly bound in white and gold, price 21s.

"A splendid specimen of decorative art, and well suited for a bridal gift."—*Literary Gazette.*

The Birthday Souvenir: a Book of Thoughts on Life and Immortality, from Eminent Writers. Small 4to, 12s. 6d. illuminated cloth; 18s. morocco antique.

"The illuminations are admirably designed."—*Gentleman's Magazine.*

Shakespeare's Household Words. With a Photographic Portrait, taken from the Monument at Stratford-on-Avon. Price 9s. cloth elegant; 14s. morocco antique.

"An exquisite little gem, fit to be the Christmas offering to Titania or Queen Mab."—*The Critic.*

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS FOR BOYS.

Hurricane Hurry; or the Adventures of a Naval Officer afloat and on shore during the American War of Independence. By W. H. G. KINGSTON. With Illustrations by R. HUTTULA. Imperial 16mo, price 6s., cloth elegant, or with bevelled boards, gilt edges, 7s. 6d.

Three Midshipmen (The). By the same Author. New Edition. With 24 Illustrations by G. THOMAS, JULIAN PORCH, etc. Imperial 16mo, price 6s., cloth elegant.

Journey to the Centre of the Earth. From the French of JULES VERNE, Author of "Five Weeks in a Balloon," etc. With 53 Illustrations. New Edition. Crown 8vo, price 6s., or with gilt edges, 7s.

Home Life in the Highlands. By LILIAS GRÆME. With Illustrations by C. D. MURRAY. Post 8vo, cloth elegant, price 5s.

Triumphs of Steam; or Stories from the Lives of Watt, Arkwright, and Stevenson. With Illustrations by JOHN GILBERT. Post 8vo, cloth elegant, 3s. 6d.

Five Shillings each, cloth elegant.

Adventures of Hans Sterk, the South African Hunter and Pioneer. By CAPTAIN DRAYSON.

Castles and their Heroes. By BARBARA HUTTON. Gilt edges.

Early Start in Life (The). By EMILIA MARRYAT NORRIS.

Gerard and Harry; or the Boys in the North. By EMILIA MARRYAT NORRIS.

Heroes of the Crusades. By BARBARA HUTTON. Post 8vo.

John Deane of Nottingham; his Adventures and Exploits: a Tale of the Times of William of Orange and Queen Anne. By W. H. G. KINGSTON.

Out on the Pampas; or the Young Settlers. By G. A. HENTY.

Swift and Sure; or the Career of Two Brothers. By ALFRED ELWES.

Tales of the Saracens. By BARBARA HUTTON.

Tales of the White Cockade. By BARBARA HUTTON.

Young Franc-Tireurs (The), and their Adventures during the Franco-Prussian War. By G. A. HENTY, Special Correspondent of the *Standard*.

Three Shillings and Sixpence each.

Fred Markham in Russia; or the Boy Travellers in the Land of the Czar. By W. H. G. KINGSTON.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

Manco the Peruvian Chief.

Mark Seaworth: a Tale of the Indian Ocean.

Peter the Whaler; his Early Life and Adventures in the Arctic Regions.

Salt Water; or Neil D'Arcy's Sea Life and Adventures.

Bear King (The): a Narrative confided to the Marines. By JAMES GREENWOOD. With illustrations by ERNEST GRISET. Small 4to.

Might not Right; or Stories of the Discovery and Conquest of America.

Adventures in Australia; or the Wanderings of Captain Spencer in the Bush and the Wilds. By Mrs. R. LEE. Third Edition.

The African Wanderers; or the Wanderings of Carlos and Antonio; embracing interesting Descriptions of the Manners and Customs of the Western Tribes, and the Natural Productions of the Country. By the same Author. Fourth Edition. Foolscap 8vo.

Price Three Shillings, or with gilt edges, Three Shillings and Sixpence.

Our Soldiers; or Anecdotes of the Campaigns and Gallant Deeds of the British Army during the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. By W. H. G. KINGSTON. With Frontispiece. Third Edition. With an account of the Abyssinian Expedition. Foolscap 8vo.

Our Sailors; or Anecdotes of the Engagements and Gallant Deeds of the British Navy. With Frontispiece. Third Edition. Foolscap 8vo.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS FOR GIRLS.

Isabel's Difficulties; or Light on the Daily Path. By W. R. CAREY, Author of "Our Old Uncle's Home." With Illustrations by J. ABSOLON. Post 8vo, cloth elegant, price 3s. 6d.

Feathers and Fairies; or Stories from the Realms of Fancy. By the Hon. AUGUSTA BETHELL. With Illustrations. Super-royal 16mo, price 3s. 6d., cloth elegant.

Holidays among the Mountains, or Scenes and Stories of Wales. By M. BETHAM EDWARDS. Illustrated by F. J. SKILL. Super-royal 16mo, price 3s. 6d. plain; 4s. 6d. coloured, gilt edges.

Milicent and Her Cousins. By the same Author. With Illustrations by R. PATERSON. Second Edition. Post 8vo, price 3s. 6d.; gilt edges, 4s.

"A capital book for girls. Bright, sparkling, and full of life, yet never transgressing imits of good taste and probability."—*The Guardian.*

The Oak Staircase; or the Stories of Lord and Lady Desmond: a Narrative of the Times of James II. By MARY and CATHERINE LEE, Authors of "Rosamond Fane," etc. With Illustrations by T. H. COLLINS. Post 8vo, price 4s. 6d.; gilt edges, 5s.

"Deserves a special commendation. It is a charmingly life-like and graceful story of the days just before the Revolution."—*Guardian.*

Rosamond Fane; or the Prisoners of St. James. By the same Authors. Illustrations by R. DUDLEY. Second Edition. Post 8vo, price 3s. 6d.; gilt edges, 4s.

"The eventful story of Charles the First's children very well told."—*Athenæum.*

Four Shillings and Sixpence each, small post 8vo, cloth elegant; or with gilt edges, Five Shillings

Alda Graham, and her Brother Philip. By EMILIA MARRYATT NORRIS.

Book of Cats (The): a Chit-chat Chronicle of Feline Facts and Fancies. By CHARLES H. ROSS.

Casimir, the Little Exile. By CAROLINE PEACHEY.

Theodora: a Tale for Girls. By EMILIA MARRYAT NORRIS.

Three Shillings and Sixpence, plain; or coloured plates and gilt edges, Four Shillings and Sixpence.

Aunt Jenny's American Pets. By CATHERINE C. HOPLEY.

Cousin Trix, and Her Welcome Tales. By GEORGIANA CRAIK. With Illustrations by F. W. KEYL.

Distant Homes; or the Graham Family in New Zealand. By Mrs. I. E. AYLMER.

Hacco the Dwarf; or the Tower on the Mountain, and other Tales. By LADY LUSHINGTON.

The Happy Home; or the Children at the Red House. By LADY LUSHINGTON.

Helen in Switzerland. By the Hon. AUGUSTA BETHELL.

Scenes and Stories of the Rhine. By M. BETHAM EDWARDS.

Three Shillings and Sixpence, plain; in cloth elegant, or with gilt edges, price Four Shillings.

Anecdotes of the Habits and Instincts of Animals. By Mrs. LEE. Fourth Edition. Foolscap 8vo.

Anecdotes of the Habits and Instincts of Birds, Reptiles, and Fishes. By the same Author. Second Edition.

Aunt Jenny's American Pets. By CATHERINE C. HOPLEY.

My School Days in Paris. By MARGARET S. JEUNE.

Meadow Lea; or the Gipsy Children. Fcap. 8vo.

Wild Roses; or Simple Stories of Country Life. By FRANCES FREELING BRODERIP.

Young Governess (The): a Tale for Girls. By the Author of "Gerty and May."

Lucy's Campaign: a Story of Adventure. By M. & C. LEE. Foolscap 8vo, gilt edges.

The Whispers of a Shell; or, Stories of the Sea. By FRANCES FREELING BRODERIP.

3,

ATTRACTIVE BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG,

With Illustrations by Eminent Artists.

In Handsome Cloth Bindings.

Children of the Olden Time. By Mrs. HENRY MACKARNESS, Author of "A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam." With Preface by J. R. PLANCHE. 27 Illustrations. Imperial 16mo, price 2s. 6d.

Children of the Parsonage. By the Author of "Gerty and May," "Granny's Story Box," etc. Super-royal 16mo, price 2s. 6d., or coloured plates, gilt edges, 3s. 6d.

Christian Elliott; or Mrs. Danvers' Prize. By L. H. COMYN. Small fcap. 8vo, price 1s. 6d.

The Heroic Wife; or the Adventures of a Family on the Banks of the Amazon. By W. H. G. KINGSTON. Small fcap. 8vo, price 1s. 6d.

The Little Roebuck, from the German. By PROFESSOR ROTHWELL. Imperial 8vo, fancy boards, cloth back, price 1s. 6d., or with coloured plate, 2s.

The Little Gipsy. By ELIE SAUVAGE. Translated by ANNA BLACKWELL. Profusely illustrated by ERNEST FRÖLICH. Small 4to, price 5s.; extra cloth, gilt edges, 6s.

Snowed Up; or the Hut in the Forest. By EMILIA MARRYAT NORRIS. Super-royal 16mo, price 2s. 6d., or with coloured plates, gilt edges, 3s. 6d.

Trimmer's History of the Robins. Written for the Instruction of Children on their Treatment of Animals. With 24 beautiful Engravings from Drawings by HARRISON WEIR. Price 6s., or with gilt edges, 7s. 6d.

Favourite Fables in Prose and Verse. With 24 beautiful Illustrations from Drawings by HARRISON WEIR. Small 4to, price 6s.; bevelled boards, gilt edges, 7s. 6d.

The Careless Chicken. By the BARON KRAKEMSIDES. Illustrated by ALFRED CROWQUILL. 4to, price 2s. 6d.

The Headlong Career and Woful Ending of Precocious Peggy. Written for his Children by the late THOMAS HOOD. Fourth Edition. 4to, price 2s. 6d.

BOOKS FOR EVERY CHILD.

Bound in elegant covers, super-royal 4to, price 3s. 6d. each plain; 7s. 6d. coloured; 10s. 6d. mounted on cloth and coloured.

The Attractive Picture Book: a New Gift Book from the Old Current, containing numerous Illustrations by eminent Artists.

The Favourite Picture Book: a Gallery of Delights, designed for the Amusement and Instruction of the Young. With Several Hundred Illustrations from Drawings by J. ABSOLON, H. K. BROWNE (Phiz.), J. GILBERT, T. LANDSEER, J. LEECH, J. S. PROUT H. WEIR, etc.

FOR HOME AMUSEMENT.

The Boy's Own Toy-Maker: a Practical Illustrated Guide to the Useful Employment of Leisure Hours. By E. LANDELLS. With 200 cuts. Seventh Edition. Royal 16mo, price 2s. 6d.

"A new and valuable form of endless amusement."—*Nonconformist.*

The Girl's Own Toy-Maker, and Book of Recreation. By E. & A. LANDELLS. Fifth Edition. With 200 Illustrations. Price 2s. 6d.

How to make Dolls' Furniture, and to furnish a Doll's House. Seventy Illustrations, price 2s. "All ingenious children will be delighted with the work."

Historical Acting Charades, or Amusements for Winter Evenings. By the Author of "Cat and Dog," etc. New Edition. Fcap. 8vo, price 3s. 6d.

Home Amusements: a Choice Collection of Riddles, Charades, Conundrums, Parlour Games, and Forfeits. By PETER PUZZLEWELL, Esq.

Landell's Illustrated Paper Model Maker. Containing twelve subjects, and Practical Diagrams for their construction. New Edition in fancy envelope, price 2s.

The Modern Sphinx: a Collection of Enigmas, Charades, Rebuses, Double and Triple Acrostics, Anagrams, Logogriphs, Metagrams, Verbal Puzzles, Conundrums, etc. Fcap. 8vo, price 3s. 6d.; gilt edges, 4s.